JOURNAL

OF

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MICHIGAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

FOR THE YEARS 1849 AND 1850.

PRINTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

VOLUME I.

51306

JACKSON:

R. S. CHENEY, BOOK & JOB PRINTER.

1850.

W
M624j
1830

PREFACE.

On the 14th day of June, 1819, an act passed the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan providing for the organization of "The Medical Society of the *Territory* of Michigan," received the Governor's signature, and became a law. This was the first legal enactment bearing upon the Medical Profession within the Territory, now comprising the State, of Michigan. The law as first passed continued in force, with trifling alterations, until the organization of the State government, when the law was re-enacted, with few if any alterations, and the same society recognized with all its former privileges, under the name and title of The Medical Society of the *State* of Michigan. It is possible that the society at the date of its organization, and for some time subsequent, met the wants of the profession, as the city of Detroit was then, and for some time continued to be, the most important town within the Territory. It was, however, almost entirely local in its operations, being confined, with few exceptions, to the physicians of Detroit, where the Society was located. In the Spring of 1844 the law was repealed, and the medical profession left without legal guards or favors of any kind. The Revised Statutes of 1846 made provision for the revival of the old Territorial Society with its former powers and immunities. As several years had passed during which the Society had held no meetings—not even electing officers,—it was supposed the Society had ceased to exist, even in its former contracted sphere of operations.—Several of the County Societies passed resolutions strongly recommending the calling of a State convention. Letters addressed to the last President of the late State Society, asking information as to its condition, remained unanswered. The Genessee County Society appointed a committee with instructions to correspond with members of the profession throughout the State. This committee finally issued a circular, recommending the call of a convention, which circular was promptly responded to from various parts of the State, and among others, the Jackson County Medical Society issued a circular, advising that the convention be called to meet in Jackson,

on the 3d day of January, 1849. The call resulted in the meeting and organization of the Association, which is now established on a firm basis.—The only object of those engaged in this undertaking, has been to contribute their share to the effort, now being put forth throughout this country, to elevate our chosen profession, and establish an Association of Physicians, whose united effort shall be to promote that *advancement* which is the spirit of the age.

It is for the purpose of placing before the medical profession of this State the proceedings of the annual meetings of 1849 and 1850, and asking for the co-operation of every medical man, that this pamphlet is offered to the profession.

We trust the effort will be nobly sustained.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MICHIGAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Jackson, January 3, 1849.

At a meeting of delegates to attend the State Medical Convention, called for the improvement and elevation of the Profession in this State, Dr. John Cadman, of Lenawee, was called to the chair, and DeLaskie Miller, of Genesee, was chosen Secretary, *pro tem.*

On motion of Dr. Graham, of Genesee, a committee of three was appointed to report a plan for the permanent organization of the Convention, consisting of Drs. Graham, Eldredge and Cornell.

On motion of Dr. McNaughton, of Jackson, a committee of three was appointed to receive the credentials of delegates and report the names of gentlemen entitled to seats in the Convention, consisting of Drs. McNaughton, Backus and Hoyt.

On motion of Dr. Eldredge, of Lapeer, the committee on credentials was instructed to report the name of one individual for President, two for Vice Presidents, two for Secretaries, and one for Treasurer.

On motion of Dr. Fish, of Jackson, the Convention took a recess till one o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met, and was called to order by the Chairman. The minutes of the forenoon session were read and approved.

The committee appointed to report a plan for the permanent organization of the Convention, made a report, which,

On motion, was accepted.

Dr. Eldredge moved to lay the report on the table, which was carried.

The committee on credentials announced the names of gentlemen entitled to seats in the Convention, and the following for officers, viz :

For President—Dr. John Cadman.

Vice Presidents—Drs. N. B. Eldredge and B. Hard.

Secretaries—Drs. DeLaskie Miller and Wm. B. Marsh.

Treasurer—Dr. Abram Sager.

Your committee would also recommend that each County represented have the privilege of casting three votes.

M. A. McNaughton, Ch'r'n.

On motion, the report was accepted, and the committee discharged.

On motion of Dr. Eldredge, the report of the committee on plan of organization was taken from the table.

The Convention then went into committee of the whole, to consider the report of the committee on plan of organization, Dr. Eldredge in the chair, and after some time spent thereon, the committee of the whole arose and reported to the Convention the plan for the organization of the Michigan Medical Association, which on motion was accepted and adopted.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, Drs. Fish and Gunn were appointed tellers, which resulted as follows:

For President—Dr. JOHN CADMAN, of Lenawee.

For 1st Vice President—Dr. N. B. ELDREDGE, of Lapeer.

" 2d " " Dr. B. HARD, of Van Buren.

" *Secretaries*—DELASKIE MILLER, of Genesee, and M. A. MCNAUGHTON, of Jackson.

For Treasurer—ABRAM SAGER, of Washtenaw.

Dr. Miller offered the following :

Whereas, Recent expositions have shown that the manufacture and importation of spurious drugs, designed expressly for the western market, are carried on to an alarming extent ; and

Whereas, An explicit reliance upon the purity of his medicine is of vital importance to the Physician, lying at the foundation of successful practice, without which he can neither do justice to himself or his patient. Therfore,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up a memorial, in behalf of this Association, praying the Legislature of this State to second the efforts already made by Congress to stay this great evil, by enacting a law rendering all dealers in drugs in this State liable for vending or offering for sale any adulterated, spurious or misnamed drugs or pharmaceutical preparation, and also to provide by law that the composition of all Patent Medicines, offered for sale in this State, shall be intelligibly set forth on the envelope containing the same.

Resolved, That the attention of the Medical Societies in this State be called to this subject, and their co-operation respectfully solicited.

Which, on motion of Dr. McNaughton, was laid on the table.

Dr. McNaughton moved the following ;

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report to this Association their opinion of the propriety of establishing a Medical Journal in this State at this time.

Which was carried, and Drs. McNaughton, Eldredge and Gunn, were appointed said committee.

The Association then adjourned for one hour.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the President.

The committee appointed to report upon the propriety of establishing a

Medical Journal in this State, through their chairman submitted the following report :

Michigan Medical Association :

Messrs. :—Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of a Medical Journal, beg leave to report : That, in the opinion of your committee, there are few things of more importance to the Medical Profession in this State, than the establishment of a good, spirited Medical Journal. Your committee think that if the members of this Association would interest themselves in this matter, a small, yet interesting publication might be established and supported, which might be made of much public utility.

Your committee would therefore suggest, that the members of this Association pledge themselves to the support of a Journal, in case one should be established during the year, both by procuring subscribers and furnishing matter for its columns.

M. A. McNAUGHTON, Chairman.

On motion, the report was accepted, and after considerable discussion, was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Eldredge, the preamble and resolutions relating to the adulteration of drugs, &c., was taken from the table, and after free discussion, was adopted.

Drs. Eldredge, Fish and Graham were appointed a committee to memorialize the Legislature upon the adulteration of drugs and medicines.

Dr. Fairbanks offered the following :

Whereas, Some general rules should be adopted by the Medical profession relative to the pecuniary acknowledgments from their patients. Therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report at the next meeting of this Association, a fee bill, for the guidance of the profession in this State.

Which did not prevail.

Dr. Fish moved the following :

Resolved, That it is the duty of Physicians in their individual capacity, as well as in their associations as County or State Societies, to withhold their patronage, as far as is practicable, from those drug stores that are engaged in vending secret nostrums.

Which was carried unanimously.

The President then announced the standing committees :

On Arrangements—Drs. Higby, Gorham and Snyder.

On Practical Medicine—Drs. Sager, Cambrun and Spence.

On Surgery—Drs. Gunn, Marsh and Douglass.

On Obstetrics—Drs. Cornell, Fish and Graham.

On Medical Education—Drs. Stetson, Palmer and Fairbanks.

On Publication—Drs. Miller, McNaughton and Sager.

On motion, the Code of Ethics of the "American Medical Association" was adopted.

Drs. Eldredge, Gunn, Cadman, Sager and Palmer were elected delegates

to the next meeting of the American Medical Association, with power to appoint substitutes.

Dr. Eldredge moved the following :

Resolved, That the Physicians of Jackson are entitled to, and do hereby receive, our thanks, for the kindness which they have extended to those from a distance, while attending the meeting of this Association.

Which was adopted, *nem. diss.*

On motion of Dr. Fairbanks :

Resolved, That when the Association adjourns, it adjourn to meet at Ann Arbor, on the 3d Wednesday of January, 1850.

Which was carried.

Dr. Graham offered the following :

Resolved, That the President of this Association be requested to deliver an address at the next annual meeting, with power to appoint an alternate.

Which was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Fish : An abstract of the proceedings of this meeting was ordered to be published in the papers of this State, and in the Buffalo Medical Journal.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

JOHN CADMAN, President.

DELASKIE MILLER, } Secretaries.
M. A. MCNAUGHTON, }

REGULATIONS

OF THE

MICHIGAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

ADOPTED JANUARY 3, 1849.

TITLE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

This institution shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of "THE MICHIGAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION."

MEMBERS.

The Members of this Association shall collectively represent and have cognizance of the common interests of the medical profession in this State; and shall hold their appointment to membership either as delegates from local institutions, as members by invitation, or as permanent members.

The *delegates* shall receive their appointment from permanently organized Medical Societies, Medical Colleges, hospitals, and other permanently organized medical institutions of good standing in this State. Each delegate shall hold the appointment for one year, and until another is appointed to succeed him; and shall participate in all the business and affairs of the Association.

Each local Society shall have the privilege of sending to the Association one delegate for every five of its regular resident members, and one for every additional fraction of more than half this number.

The faculty of every regularly constituted medical College, or chartered school of medicine, shall have the privilege of sending two delegates; and every other regularly organized medical institution in good standing, shall have the privilege of sending one delegate.

The *members by invitation* shall consist of practitioners of reputable standing from any part of the United States. They shall receive their appointment by invitation of the meeting, after an introduction from any of the members present, or from any of the absent permanent members. They shall hold their connection with the Association until the close of the session at which they were received, and may participate in the discussions without the right of voting.

The *permanent members* shall consist of those who have served in the capacity of delegates, and of such other members as shall receive their appointment by unanimous vote.

Permanent members shall at all times be entitled to attend the meetings, and participate in the affairs of the Association, so long as they shall continue to conform to its regulations ; but without the right of voting ; and when not in attendance they shall be authorized to grant letters of introduction to reputable practioners of medicine in their vicinity, who may be received as members by invitation.

Every member elect prior to the permanent organization of the annual meeting, or before voting on any question after the meeting has been organized, must sign these regulations, inscribing his name and address in full, specifying in what capacity he attends, and if a delegate, the title of the institution from which he has received his appointment.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, two Secretaries and a Treasurer.

They shall be nominated by a special committee of one from each county represented, at the meeting, and shall be elected by vote on a general ticket. Each officer shall hold his appointment for one year, and until another is elected to succeed him.

The President shall preside at the meetings, preserve order and decorum in debate, give a casting vote when necessary, and perform all the other duties that custom and parliamentary usage may require, and deliver the annual address at the expiration of his term of office.

The Vice Presidents, when called upon, shall assist the President in the performance of his duties, and during the absence, or at the request of the president, one of them shall preside in his place.

The Secretaries shall record the minutes, and authenticate the proceedings, give due notice of the time and place of each next ensuing annual meeting, and serve as members on the committee of publication. The Secretary first in nomination shall also preserve the archives and unpublished transactions of the Association.

The Treasurer shall have the immediate charge and management of the funds and property of the Association. He shall be a member of the committee of publication, to which committee he shall give bonds for the safe keeping, proper use, and disposal of his trust, and through the same committee he shall present his accounts, duly authenticated, at every regular meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following standing committees, each composed of three members, shall be organized at each annual meeting, for preparing, arranging, and expediting business for each next ensuing year, and for carrying into effect the orders of the Association not otherwise assigned, viz : A Committee on Arrangements, a Committee on Practical Medicine, a Committee on Surgery, a Committee on Obstetrics, a Committee on Medical Education, and a Committee on Publication.

The Committee of Arrangements shall, if no sufficient reason prevent, be mainly composed of members residing in the place at which the next annual meeting is to be held, and shall be required to provide suitable accommodations for the meeting, to verify and report upon the credentials of membership, to receive and announce all essays and memoirs voluntarily communicated, either by members, or by others through them, and to determine the order in which such papers are to be read and considered.

The Committee on Surgery shall prepare an annual report on all the important improvements in the management of surgical diseases effected during the year.

The Committee on Practical Medicine shall prepare an annual report on the more important improvements effected in the management of individual diseases, and on the progress of epidemics, referring, as occasion requires, to medical topography, and to the character of prevailing diseases in special localities, during the term of their service.

The Committee on Obstetrics shall prepare an annual report on the important improvements in the obstetric art, and in the management of the diseases peculiar to women and children, which have been effected during the year.

The Committee on Medical Education shall prepare an annual report on the general condition of medical education in this country, noticing what changes in the existing mode of examining candidates and conferring degrees might be made for the elevation of the profession, and also the qualifications which should be required of students before admitting them to the study of medicine, and notice the medical literature in the State.

The Committee on publication, which shall be composed of the Secretaries and Treasurer, shall have charge of preparing for the press, and of publishing and distributing, such of the proceedings, transactions and memoirs of the Association as may be ordered to be published. The two members of the committee who have not the immediate management of the funds, shall also in their own names, as agents of the Association, hold the bond of the Treasurer for the faithful execution of his office, and shall annually audit and authenticate his accounts, and present a statement of the same in the annual report of the committee, which report shall also specify the character and cost of the publications of the Association during the year, the number of copies still at the disposal of the meeting, the funds on hand for further operations, and the probable amount of the assessment to be laid on each member of the Association for covering its annual expenditures.

FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds shall be raised by the Association for meeting its annual expenses and awards from year to year, but never for creating a permanent income from investments. Funds may be obtained by an equal assessment on each of the members, by individual voluntary contributions for specific objects, and by the sale and disposal of publications, or of works prepared for publication.

The funds may be appropriated for defraying the expenses of the annual meetings,—for publishing the proceedings, memoirs and transactions of the Association,—for enabling the standing committees to fulfil their respective duties, conduct their correspondence, and procure the material necessary for the completion of their stated annual report,—for the encouragement of scientific investigations by prizes and awards of merit,—and for defraying the expenses incident to specific investigations under the instruction of the Association, when such investigations have been accompanied with an order on the treasurer to supply the funds necessary for carrying them into effect.

PROVISION FOR AMENDMENTS.

No amendments or alterations shall be made in any of the articles, except at the annual meeting next subsequent to that at which such amendment or alteration may have been proposed, and then only by the voice of three-fourths of the members in attendance.

And in acknowledgment of having adopted the foregoing propositions, and of our willingness to abide by them, and use our endeavors to carry into effect the objects of this Association, as above set forth, we have hereunto affixed our names.

ORDER OF BUSINESS;

At the Annual Meeting of the "Michigan Medical Association."

1st. Temporary organization, and report of the committee of arrangements on credentials of members.

2d. Reading minutes of last meeting.

3d. Annual address by the President.

4th. Election of officers.

5th. Reading and consideration of the stated annual reports from the standing committees.

6th. Selection of the place for the next annual meeting.

7th. New appointments to fill the standing committees.

8th. The reading and discussion of voluntary communications introduced through the committee of arrangements.

9th. Unfinished and miscellaneous business.

10th. Adjournment.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MICHIGAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANN ARBOR, January 16, 1850.

The delegates to the second annual meeting of the Michigan Medical Association assembled in the Lecture Room of the Medical College, at 10 o'clock A. M., and were called to order by the President. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee of arrangements then announced the names of delegates, who severally came forward, and subscribed to the Rules of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Fish, the regular order of business was suspended.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to memorialize the legislature of this State, made a verbal report, which was accepted, and the committee discharged.

On motion of Dr. Ackley,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to memorialize the present legislature of this State upon the vending of spurious and adulterated drugs and medicines.

The chair appointed Drs. Ackley, Fish and Wells.

Drs. Douglass, Graham, Fish, Field, Arnold and Ackley were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

On motion, the annual address was deferred till 6½ o'clock, evening.

On motion of Dr. Douglass, the Association adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment, and was called to order by the President.

The Committee on Publication made their report, which was accepted and adopted.

The Committee on Nominations made their report, which was accepted, and the committee discharged.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

For President—Dr. SAMUEL DENTON, of Ann Arbor.

" *1st Vice President*—Dr. GEO. W. GORHAM, of Jackson.

" *2d* " " Dr. S. R. ARNOLD, of Monroe.

" *Secretaries*—Drs. DELASKIE MILLER, of Flint, and GEO. W. FISH, of Jackson.

For Treasurer—Dr. ABRAM SAGER, of Ann Arbor.

On motion, Drs. Graham, Douglass, Gorham, Field and Ackley were appointed a committee to report upon the propriety of establishing a Medical Journal in this State at the present time.

Dr. Graham, from the committee on obstetrics, read a lengthy report, which was accepted and referred to the committee on publication.

[Dr. Graham's report, in behalf of the Committee on Obstetrics, which excited great interest in the convention, will not be published. The Committee on Publication are unwilling to assume the responsibility of selecting parts of the report for publication, and omitting other portions. Any abridgment would greatly mar its perfections. Justice requires that if it be published at all, it be in full; and the length of the document precludes it from a place in a work of the present dimensions. The report is an *able* argument in favor of Anesthæsia in child-birth, reviewing the argument *pro.* and *con.*, and closing with an appeal to the faculty to not hastily reject this *great improvement* untried. The Dr. gives the result of interesting personal experience, having himself tested etherialization in between 30 and 40 cases, with the most *flattering* success.]

The committee on Medical Journal asked and obtained further time to make their report.

On motion of Dr. Arnold,

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Association be held on the first Wednesday of June next.

Dr. Ackley moved to amend by inserting the 2d Wednesday of October, which was carried, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Dr. Ackley offered the following amendment to the Rules, viz:

"The annual meeting of this Association shall be held on the second Wednesday of October of each year."

Which, in accordance with the Rules, was laid on the table till the next meeting.

Dr. Smead offered the following:

Resolved, That the committee appointed to memorialize the legislature of this State, be instructed to remonstrate against the passage of the "Peninsular Medical College bill."

Which was adopted.

The Association adjourned to 6½ o'clock, evening.

EVENING SESSION.

Association met and was called to order by the President. Dr. Cadman, on retiring from the chair, delivered a neat and appropriate valedictory address, and closed by introducing Dr. Field, who came forward, and made an able and eloquent annual address.

On motion of Dr. Fish, the thanks of the Association were tendered Dr. Cadman, for the able and gentlemanly manner in which he has discharged the duties incumbent on him as the presiding officer of the Association.

On motion, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the "Amer-

ican Medical Association," viz : Drs. John Cadman, Samuel Denton, Geo. W. Fish, DeLaskie Miller and Wm. Wier.

The President then announced the standing committees, as follows, to wit:

On Arrangements—Drs. Gunn, Sager and Wells.

On Practical Medicine—Drs. McNaughton, Wells and Higby.

On Surgery—Drs. Gunn, Palmer and Newcomb.

On Obstetrics—Drs. Graham, Arnold and Brigham.

On Medical Education—Drs. Douglass, Fish and Cadman.

Dr. Fish offered the following :

Resolved, That Drs. Sager, of Washtenaw, Miller, of Genesee, and Camburn, of Lenawee, be appointed a committee to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Association upon the "Medical Botany of this State."

Which was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Ackley, the addresses of Drs. Cadman and Field were referred to the committee on publication.

On motion, Drs. Gorham and Higby were appointed a committee to correspond with the members of the medical profession in this State, and inform them of the organization and objects of this Association, and solicit their co-operation.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

SAMUEL DENTON, President

DELASKIE MILLER, } Secretaries.
GEORGE W. FISH, }

Dr. CADMAN'S

VALEDICTORY.

Gentlemen of the "Medical Association:"

From a variety of circumstances beyond my control, I have been unable to prepare an address for this occasion. And this I the less regret for the reason that I have succeeded in obtaining one to address you who, I doubt not, will do the subject he shall select for consideration ample justice.

But I should be doing great injustice to my own feelings, on this first anniversary of our Association's formation, did I not embrace the present opportunity of presenting a few thoughts and making a few suggestions, which I trust may not be entirely inappropriate. That there is great need of persistent effort on the part of the medical faculty of this State, to elevate the character of their chosen profession, admits not of one moment's doubt. Gentlemen, our noble art that has so long stood conspicuous among the learned professions of the world, has indeed fallen *so low*, that there are few to do it reverence. Few, in many localities, who look upon it, *only*, as a means of obtaining a livelihood, and the medical man, only as desirous of becoming rich, by filching from the unfortunate patient the hard earnings of more prosperous days. Honest, humble merit goes unrewarded; while stupidity, superstition, ignorance and impudence stalk forth, unblushing through the land. It is not to be denied that quackery and empiricism, in divers forms, like the locusts and lice of Egypt, swarm over our State, and are eating out the very vitals, and sucking the life blood of community. I need not enlarge on this point; the facts are too well known to require anything more than a mere passing notice. And now let me inquire what has produced such a deplorable state of things? In the first place, a very considerable proportion of the censure, in my opinion, lies at the door of the regular practitioners. They have not respected themselves; they have looked upon the practice of medicine simply as a means by which to amass wealth. In many instances they have not regarded the intimations of conscience, nor the dictates of humanity. The "dollar, the almighty dollar," has seemed to occupy their entire field of vision, and thus totally eclipse every bright luminary of the soul. This being the paramount object of their pursuit, many have not been over nice in their selection of the means of obtaining it. Medical etiquette has been, in many instances, entirely disregarded. Insinuations, innuendos, nay, even *slanders*, of the *foulest, blackest* kind, have often been uttered into the open ear of gaping credulity; and thus the hard earned fame of many a worthy son of Escula-

pius has been taken from him, and it has not enriched the slanderer, but it has made him poor indeed. Such physicians have forgotten that in the same proportion as they succeed in lowering the reputation or blasting the fair fame of a brother practitioner, they succeed in sinking the whole medical profession in the eyes of the community, destroying confidence in the faculty at large, and thus bring discredit and dishonor upon the whole profession. Besides this, the laws of our State, regulating the practice of medicine, are wrong—*manifestly wrong*. Any one is allowed to practice medicine and surgery who can induce anybody to employ him. He who never spent a single month in the pursuit of medical knowledge, and knows so little of the science of anatomy that he would quite as soon locate the sphenoid bone in the heel as in the head; so little of surgery as to assert, (as in a case that came under my own observation,) that *lobelia* (*"mirabile dictu!"*) would absolutely reduce a fractured bone; or, so destitute of common sense as to suppose that the efficacy of a single grain of medicine may be immensely increased after undergoing such an infinite division, that were it made up into little pills of the thirtieth dilution, and if the whole human family now existing on the globe (numbering about nine hundred millions) were to have commenced swallowing them at the creation of Adam at the rate of sixty in a minute, and continued the operation up to the present moment, the number would not have been consumed,—I say he puts out his shingle and palms himself off on the world as a physician. And how is community to be protected against such imposition? How are men to *judge*—how CAN they judge of the qualifications of the men into whose hands they are to commit the care of their health and that of their families? A community may be anxious to secure the services of a physician in their midst; one of the kind above described presents himself; he is received with joyful hospitality, and soon commences his work; and it is not until one after another of their number fall a sacrifice to ignorance and empiricism, that the scales begin to fall from their eyes, and they discover, too late, that they have been grossly imposed upon by him whom they received as an angel of mercy.

The effect of our present law is bringing a very unhappy influence to bear upon many young men of promise and talents, who are entering our profession. They pursue their studies a year or two, attend perhaps one course of lectures, and then—seeing others far below them in medical education, as well as in natural ability, apparently in the full tide of *successful practice*, reaping a *golden harvest*,—they become dissatisfied, and unwilling longer to toil on *up* the *rugged steeps* of *science*. The result is, that in very many instances, young men of promise have been induced to relinquish the further prosecution of their studies, and but half prepared, enter upon the arduous and responsible duties of professional life. It is true they consider themselves as regular practitioners, but it is *also true*, they can never do honor to the profession. Our great Creator, benificent as he is, has never imparted to any man or set of men the power to discover, by intuition, the nature

of disease and the means of cure. 'Tis only by long continued study and close application, that success may be expected; and how unhappy for the profession, and for the interests of mankind at large, thus to encourage a race of half educated physicians. How is it with the *other* learned professions? Although all may not be educated as they ought to be, still, none are admitted to the full enjoyment of the privileges of their professions, without a rigid examination of their qualifications. And ought not the same to obtain in relation to *our* profession? Most assuredly it ought.—Is it of no consequence to community, to raise up and patronize a class of well educated physicians? None will deny it; and *how can this be done?* How is society to be protected from this *physical pestilence*, that is exerting its blighting influence over the land? I answer, by repealing the present law, and enacting one allowing no one to practice without first having undergone a rigid and scrutinizing examination in all the branches connected with the practice of medicine and surgery. I do not say, gentlemen, a man should be bound to administer calomel, or *any* mercurial, neither cayenne, lobelia, nor Cod-liver oil. Let every man exercise his *own judgment* in relation to the propriety of administering ANY particular article of the Materia Medica. But I *do insist* that *that* judgment should be well informed and instructed on all subjects connected with the profession. Let every man who *presumes* to administer to the sick be practically acquainted with anatomy, physiology, pathology, chemistry, materia medica, &c., or never let him aspire to a place among the members of the healing art.

Then let immediate efforts be made to secure the passage of such laws as shall protect the community from imposition, and the faculty in the possession of their just rights. Permit me here, gentlemen, to allude to the common practice of admitting young men into our offices as students, without first having gone through an examination by the censors of the county societies. The effect of such a course cannot be otherwise than deleterious, both to the profession and to the community. Many young men of very indifferent natural, and still poorer *acquired*, ability, are induced to enter the profession, on account of the ease with which they can gain access to our ranks. I would not by any means prohibit any deserving young man from pursuing the study of medicine; but *I would by all* means have him become a good *English* scholar, at least, and he *ought* to possess *some* knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, before he attempts to master those important and difficult sciences connected with our profession. In the By-laws of the Medical Society of the county of Lenawee, may be found the following article, which I hope may be adopted, at least in *substance*, by every County Society in the State, viz: "It shall be the duty of the board of censors, in addition to those defined in the constitution, to examine all persons who shall apply for admission into the office of any member of this Society as a student of medicine; and no student shall be received by any member without a certificate from such board of censors declaring the candidate possessed of a competent preliminary education, and

a fair intellectual and moral character; and for each certificate thus given the person receiving it shall pay to the Society the sum of five dollars."—The effect of such a by-law, I apprehend, will be found salutary wherever it is adopted.

There is another subject to which I wish to call your attention before I close these remarks. That is, the propriety of taking the necessary steps in order to render our Society permanent in its character. The benefits to be derived from such an association, if properly established and sustained, are very great. They are too obvious to make it necessary for me here to point them out. I would suggest the propriety of calling in legislative action to our assistance, and in order that it may be done the *more effectually*, I would recommend the appointment of a committee, whose duty it shall be to devise the best means of securing and perpetuating an organization under suitable legislative sanctions.

Gentlemen, before concluding, permit me to return you my sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me, in calling me to occupy the distinguished position of *President* of this *Association*. But I fear I have trespassed too long upon your time, and will now conclude these remarks by introducing to your favorable consideration, Doctor FIELDS, of Adrian, who will now address you, as my alternate.

Dr. FIELD'S

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the "Medical Association" of the State of Michigan:

Our age is eminently utilitarian. "*Cui bono*," ("for whose good,") is the universal watchword; and like the "God wills it" of the oath-bound Crusader, salutes us as a duty, or cheers us as a promise, at every step in life's pathway. "*Cui bono*" is the query with regard to all the affairs of life, and we read its response as well in the welfare of communities as in the happiness of individuals. It is the very essence of the common weal; fraternizing nations and quelling the fierce struggle of the battle by the very magic of its name. It is echoed back to us from time to come, by our hopes and wishes, and by a long line of posterity the measure of whose good it is ours to fill. It actuates us as a motive, and is a part of our very being, commencing in the nursery amid the toys and baubles of infancy—exhibiting itself amid the companionships of youth, and permeating every scheme of maturity. "*Cui bono*" assembles us to-day, cementing the bond of friendship among those long acquainted, and welcoming the stranger to the fellowship of a common cause. It was the question which each of us asked before assembling, and the goodly number now present evince as the answer, our mutual good. Our motive then in part was a selfish one, but not unlike the motive which moves every enterprise, and is linked in with every undertaking. We had a purpose in view in assembling, else it would be a strange anomaly in selfish human nature, to see so many from different parts of the State, leaving their homes and their business, for an idle pastime. "*Cui bono?*" We answer, for our own.

Leagued in the same great cause, deriving our power to act from the same great source, and depending for our support upon the same means, we form a brotherhood of like feelings and like sympathies—we have like interests at stake, like honors of which to be jealous, and like rights to maintain; and conscious of our individual inability to maintain either, we have met to unite our powers and gather strength from associated action.—Wherever there is a common interest, there is a common feeling among those whom it affects, and this feeling inclines them to one another, and establishes a bond of union among them. It is such an interest that convenes us here to-day—that assimilates our feelings, awakens our sympathies for one another, and incites us to act together, if we would attain the greatest good.

Association is a principle inherent in our nature—the very heart of life—the great link in the chain of human existence. It speaks to us in the inscription upon our banners waving in the breeze, "In union there is strength." It is fabled in the bundle of sticks, it is echoed back to us by all the great enterprizes of time past, and is foreshadowed to us in all the events of time to come. It is coeval even with time, first dawning upon us in the Garden of Eden, and since recognized in the uninterrupted assumption of the marriage contract—in families reared—in societies established and in nations founded. It makes our laws and gives us security in our homes. It is the very soul of civilization and the blessings springing therefrom. It is association that insures our lives and property, that builds our railroads and "whitens our waters with sail." It is association through which Benevolence extends her charities, in her hospitals and asylums.—Religion, too, establishes her home and foreign missions, her Sabbath schools and Bible societies, by means of association. Knowledge and science dispense their benefits by means of association in our schools, our colleges, our literary associations and our "Art Union." In fact, every great enterprise and every great movement in the World's history has been accomplished by association. We behold it always and everywhere—we have felt its benign influence in many of the walks of life, and have met here to-day to avail ourselves of its aid in our professional advancement.

If separated from each other by the narrow limits of our own practice, and confined by the cares of business to our own circles, our intercourse is but slight and trivial. Unable to meet frequently for the interchange of ideas and experience, gained in our several rounds of business, we have resolved to make an annual visit to a common reservoir, and pouring in our drop as an equivalent for that of our neighbors, obtain the privilege of drinking from a fountain filled by streams from sources the most distant and out of the way. In this manner we gather together not only isolated facts of great importance—but likewise the different opinions and views of different individuals upon the same subject. Opinions and views which have been formed from viewing the subject in different lights, under various circumstances and in different localities. We are the guardians of the Public Health, the army that wages war against its relentless enemy, Disease.—Placed in different localities, as out-posts, we each, during a certain period, observe its various modes of attack and note the weak points of our defence; and meeting here, recount to each other our discoveries and confer together upon the best means of strengthening our weakness and parrying its assaults. In other words, we meet here to profit by each other's experience, to read in each other's history a new antidote for an old poison, or a new remedy for an old disease; to confer together with regard to the Public Health committed to our care; to consult with regard to the best means of preserving it, and the surest defence against the dangers which threaten it. Indeed, we are a legislative assembly, acting in behalf of the people upon a public interest, an interest to them inestimable, and one which if not well

served, they will take from us, and confer upon others better able to merit its guardianship.

We have to defend our interest, the Public Health, against a worse enemy, even, and one more subtle than disease; an enemy in league with it, spreading desolation and death wherever it goes,—an enemy, too, that seeks with all the ardor of self interest and self-accumulation, our individual downfall. An enemy who has many strongholds upon the affections of the people; and one, too, who in many places, more than rivals us in their esteem.

Empiricism and quackery are peculiarly the products of our age. Its ambitious spirit and its vain conceits are flattered by the manifold attempts to stamp all that is old as useless, and to regard the opinions handed down to us through a long line of fathers as the mere extravagancies of benighted times. There is a longing for something new—it is believed because it is new, and embraced for its novelty.

But with all this love of novelty—this superior intelligence of the age, and these improvements in the arts and sciences, "falsehood and empiricism were never more rife, more bold, or more unblushing than at present."—The public mind is entirely unsettled,—regarding the profession of medicine as a mere lottery, with a few prizes, but more blanks. Doubting whether it will ever rank among the liberal and settled sciences, or whether it will be abandoned, as in all uncivilized times, to the juggler and the mountebank. All species of quackery, from natural bone-setting to Brandreth's pills, have their advocates and admirers. The amount of nostrums and pretended specifics, both liquid and pill, hawked about the country, defy the power of calculation. The belief in charms and incantations is not more to be wondered at, nor even so much, as the faith now placed in panaceas for all diseases. The superstition of darker ages does not begin to equal the folly of the present enlightened period. The faith placed in the regal touch is far more agreeable to reason than the belief in the efficacy of the decillionth of a grain in the cure of disease. And yet these are the creeds of the day; and all have their advocates, not only among the ignorant, but among the wise and the learned. All degrade the science of medicine; weakening public confidence in it, and reducing it to a perfect system of charlatanry. Such are the prejudices with which we have to contend—such the evils we have to overcome, ere we can behold our much beloved profession ranking among her sister sciences as immutably true, and undeniably humane. We have to contend against public opinion, and the thousand influences that are working to blind and corrupt it. We are now dictated to by those who once had an almost blind reverence for our opinions, as if the very oracles of wisdom. The public have become the judge and test of our merits, instead of the willing suppliant of our favor. We are not now the only oracles. Others have taken advantage of that ignorance which has so long served our purpose and profit, and administering to the public taste a more agreeable, because a more novel system, and flatter-

ing, with seemingly simple and rational appeals, their common sense, have brought us into disrepute and caused our folly to recoil upon our own heads. Would we make amends for past folly, and roll back the wave of popular displeasure that so threateningly approaches us, we have but to strip our profession of the mysteries that have so long enshrouded it—to let the light, which has illumined our minds, shine full upon the public. We must invite investigation and encourage it too,—we must become teachers ourselves: making our school houses dissecting rooms, and our drawing-rooms the arenas of physiological discussion. Too long has this medical darkness been upon the Public. Too long have our medical colleges been cloisters, and our medical men, like the monks of old, the only repositories of medical knowledge. We can no longer rely upon the ignorance of the Public in support of our claims upon their patronage. If we would merit and gain it, we must enlighten them by appeals to the reason and good sense of the educated part of community. We must instruct them in the structure and composition of their own bodies—the functions of their various organs, the laws that regulate them, and the influences of surrounding agents upon them. Teach the fond mother that the nurseling in her lap will enjoy the blessings of health, or be the victim of disease, in exact proportion as she understands and administers these laws. Teach mankind in fine, the benefits to themselves of a better appreciation of medicine as a science and profession,—awaken them to the fact that anatomy and physiology are sciences of the utmost importance, and should be taught in all institutions of learning, "from the district school to the university."—Convince them that their inquiries into these subjects will result in the advancement of the profession at large, that medical men will quicken and be more earnest in their endeavors to raise the standard of medical education to correspond with the more enlightened views of the public, and that they will be insured against the immense impositions which their own ignorance now foster and encourage. Teach them that ours is not a guess-work, but a scientific and a skillful application of means in our hands,—that we act upon established principles, and upon experience drawn from a long line of observations. Convince them of these things, and ours will be no longer the most thankless and graceless of professions. No longer shall we be judged of by ignorance, and condemned by every freak of fancy. No longer shall we suffer from the unjust empanneling of a jury incapable of sitting in judgment upon us, neither from the false testimony of witnesses leagued against us. Science shall be no longer arraigned before Ignorance, and condemned upon the perjured testimony of Quackery and Empiricism. Ours shall be an impartial trial, with truth as our counsel, and an educated public sentiment as our judge. Our successes will be regarded by it as the legitimate result of our scientific acquirements, and our failures as the defects of our science, not of our skill. Says one high in the ranks of our profession, (Dr. Flint, of Buffalo,) "Let the period arrive when it will be as rare for a cultivated or intelligent person, not to be con-

versant with the general principles of the structure and mechanism of the animal machine, as is now the reverse, and there will be no occasion for the assertion, sometimes made, that medical capacity and skill are but secondary qualifications for success in the medical profession. The way will then be opened for the full and legitimate operation of merit, as the sole requisite for professional success. All that the ardent advocate of medical reform now could desire, will then be demanded, not only by the medical fraternity, but by all whose influence and character combine to give direction and tone to popular sentiment." Waiving entirely all other recommendations, this alone is sufficient to render it highly important to the profession and to the public, that anatomy and physiology should be incorporated, as speedily as practicable, among the branches of public and private education, and become an element of popular knowledge. Yes, gentlemen, if we would elevate the character of our profession—if we would rid ourselves of the unnumbered imposters that claim its privileges, its benefits, and its honors—if we would subserve the public good or be mindful of our own interests—we have but to unite and encourage public attention to the principles of our science.

And may we not, gentlemen, in our meeting here to-day, by united efforts, commence the work which in good time will result in the enlightenment of the public—the advancement of our cause, and the final downfall of empiricism? May we not to-day begin to fortify ourselves against the farther encroachments of falsehood and error? Aye, more, may we not to-day begin the battle which must be fought ere we shall realize a restitution of our rights—ere the many who have wandered from their faith, in the worship of false idols and under the guidance of false prophets, shall be reclaimed, and our principles established as the only true and catholic creed? May we not set out to-day from this our council chamber, to the various out-posts of our camp, and as champions in the work of emancipation, commence the reform? And when the reveille of another year shall beat, and we assemble at its call, may we not come ladened with the spoils of victory and unite in a song of joy over the success of our labor?

Indeed, gentlemen, we have every encouragement to labor faithfully in our profession. Despite the obstacles in our way, and the fitful changes of public sentiment, our merits are still recognized and our efforts appreciated by those high in public favor, and they are exerting their influence in our behalf, through a medium potent as the will of the people. The Governor of the State of New York, in his late message to the legislature, in view of the recent scourge that has swept through our land, and the self-sacrificing spirit with which medical men have endeavored to stay its desolations, recommends legislative enactment upon and encouragement to the prosecution of scientific medical inquiries. He says:

"It is now nearly eighteen years since the cholera made its first appearance on this continent. Within that period it has three times overspread

the whole breadth of the land, and while it has claimed its thousands upon thousands of victims, much remains to be learned of its nature, its origin, its course, or its proper treatment. The devotion of medical men to the cause of humanity, and their frequent gratuitous attention, and constant self-sacrificing privations for the alleviation of human suffering, preclude the idea that the continued absence of accurate and of acknowledged information is the result of any want of attention on their part. It proceeds rather from the want of an accurate combination of reliable facts, within the experience of the individual members of the medical profession.

"No subject more universally affects all classes, and all members of the community, than that of the public health. I therefore earnestly request your attention to the existing laws on this subject, and suggest the propriety of careful review and amendment especially with a view to secure the benefit of the combined experience of scientific and learned men, throughout the State with respect to the origin, the causes, the progress and the treatment of all malignant or infectious diseases."

Here indeed is encouragement from a high source, and may we not confidently expect the same from the Executives of other States? How much influence we might exert upon the body politic by means of their representatives assembled, and whether we should exert it, are questions of no little moment to us, and would well merit our consideration.

But, gentlemen, I leave these subjects for your abler discussion—regretting the circumstances that prevent you from listening to an address from one duly appointed, and better able to address you. And while I must needs apologize for dwelling on topics familiar and common to you all, I crave your indulgence for a brief consideration of a principle, the power and efficacy of which all must acknowledge, and the abuse and neglect of which all must deplore. I speak of the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, or the power of Nature to heal herself—a principle of which we are all loud in our praise—but of which our practice runs wide of our precept.

It is beyond the power of human wisdom to understand many of the functions of human life—veiled under an almost impenetrable obscurity, they make no disclosures of their own mysterious action. So indisputably is this the case, that the attempt to apply to them the same laws that regulate the operation of inorganic matter, is regarded as utterly hopeless. In common with dead matter they have certain laws and certain phenomena, but in addition to these, they have others of a higher grade and a more inscrutable character.

Of these phenomena there is none more interesting or peculiar than the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, or the power inherent in the human body of controlling and regulating its own vicarious action. This power of Nature to heal itself is denied to exist by some, and among the most prominent is the celebrated Hahnemann. But notwithstanding this, we have ample proof of its existence. Else how shall we account for the innumerable instances, in which we see the deranged functions of the system, without any interfe-

rence of medicine, brought back to a healthy and regular action ? Is there any other mechanism, that has the power of repairing its losses and renewing its operations without artificial intervention ? Does the cog in the wheel when broken, unite its severed particles and proceed in harmony with the rest of the machinery ? Can it rid itself of those obstructions that retard its movements, or guard itself against those mechanical powers that weaken its forces and destroy its action ? Possesses it any power of supplying its own wants, or of continuing its action unless by remote agencies ? Surely there is no principle, either vital or mechanical, that is capable of constituting it a self-regulating and self-acting organism. In the animal body there is a principle, self-regulating and self-acting, and this principle is properly termed a vital principle, peculiar to animal bodies and independent of mechanical agencies. This principle is variously named ; some styling it the Vital Principle, others the Vis Medicatrix Naturæ, and others simply Nature. By Nature, they mean a man's constitution, or those powers by which the system corrects its deviations and repairs its losses. In its full vigor, it carries with it a safe-guard against noxious influences, and is possessed of a powerful reaction against morbid agents.—In the human body changes are constantly taking place. It is ever throwing off its vitiated humors, and repairing its enfeebled forces from sources within. It recruits what is exhausted, and purifies what is corrupt.

If this is true, there is a principle in the body, independent in a measure of external influences, that acts the guardian angel, and is alive to every danger that may threaten the health of the system.

This principle has long been recognized and acknowledged. But to Cullen we are indebted for its most significant and appropriate title, Vis Medicatrix Naturæ. By Stahl it was termed Anima—by Van Helmont, Archeus. We cannot locate it definitely, because we see it operating through almost every organ and function of the body. It seems to pervade the whole system, sending its vivifying influence wherever a lesion may occur or a defect exist. "Does the body suffer under cold ? It excites the circulation, thereby exciting secretion, and thus removes the cause. Has improper food been received into the stomach ? It excites vomiting, and thus rids itself of the offending matter." Has a foreign substance entered the flesh at any point; it excites suppuration and thus discharges it. Labors the body under plethora ; it depletes the system through the various secretions. Lacks one function the power of performing its proper duty, we see it demanding of another an increased action ; and thus the balance is maintained and health preserved." "And in this manner we behold this resisting and conservative power of the system manifesting itself in the various operations of secretion and excretion of inflammation, suppuration, effusion of lymph, and likewise in the common efforts of sneezing and coughing." "We likewise discover it in hepatic abscesses in which adhesions take place when they approach the surface of the liver in virtue of that conserv-

ative principle of which we so constantly discern the working between the diseased organ and the neighboring parts."

But setting all these aside, we gather from the condition of the drunkard proof sufficient that there is a power inherent in the body, capable not only of overcoming diseased action, but also of converting the very substances which in themselves are poisonous to life into the means of prolonging and sustaining existence. Innumerable instances of a similar character might be mentioned—instances wherein this conservative principle of the body not only combats the disease, but likewise the doctor. For it is no uncommon occurrence for the practitioner to mistake the disease and thus mistaking it, by his well-meant prescriptions to add fuel to the flame that is already fast consuming the body.

And yet we see, in spite of the efforts of the disease and the kindly co-operation of the Doctor, Nature, or whatever else we choose to call it, successfully thwarting every attempt to seize the citadel under her command. We do not pretend to claim for this principle an irresistible action—neither to assert that artificial aid is unnecessary—because its powers of resistance may be weakened by various causes—it may be defeated by the very means it calls in to aid in its operations, and it is when this occurs that disease commences.

But is it at all improbable that the Creator designed this power as fully adequate to administer to all the ills of the human body and correct its deviations. Has not Heaven guaranteed to it in the very fact of its creation a protective power, and endowed it with a life-preserving principle? It has established certain laws by which it must be governed. It has given it certain relations to the external world—and it is in the violation of these laws and these relations that this conservative power is weakened. When these laws and these relations are not controverted, when Nature acts with Nature's self, it is fully equal to the guardianship and protection of the animal machine. It is not until overpowered by their gross violation that it calls medicine in aid. That the practitioner too frequently overlooks this principle, or that he too frequently paralizes its recuperative power by his too hasty and uncalled for prescriptions, none will deny. Indeed, from the amount of medicine prescribed, and from the habit of prescribing for every petty ill, he seems to deny its very existence, or at least its ability. He waits not its natural operation, but endeavors by untimely interference, to speed or to entirely supercede its action. That this does not accord with his better judgment; but is in many instances the result of popular prejudice, which is wont to estimate medical capacity by the weight and amount of the prescription rather than the wholesomeness of the advice we are ready to acknowledge. And in acknowledging it we see but another reason why we should educate the public in the principles of our profession. If we would rob the public of those prejudices which so unjustly estimate our science, and be untrammeled in the exercise of our judgment and our skill, we must teach them the folly of endless medication—we must introduce

them to the Vis Medicatrix Naturæ, a physician ever with them and one more skillful and able to heal than the combined faculty of medicine from Æsculapius to the present day. We must show them that their worst diseases are their follies and their abuses, which *it* disdains to doctor, and which yield us our practice and our profit. Teach them that "the natural result of disease is recovery and death its exception"—that the body left to the same circumstances and influences under which it came from the hand of its Creator, will work out its allotted existence, worn out by its labors rather than destroyed by its accidents. To convince them of this fact we have only to compare ours with the earlier ages of the world, and show them that while they sing pæns in praise of the improvement of man, and glory in the developement of his moral, intellectual and political character, they should not overlook the fact that civilization, although it may bring with it all the higher endowments of mind and the enticing allurements of social intercourse, likewise brings poisons that infect every one of its partakers.—They eat of a golden fruit, but there is poison at its core. They cultivate their mental faculties regardless of their bodily requirements, and seem to forget that they are reciprocally dependant. They make the principles of health subservient to the conventional usages of society, and deem themselves beyond reproach in the fulfilment of its arbitrary commands. They sacrifice their reason upon the altar of their passions, and administer to tastes as depraved as the "pleasures they afford are unreal."

Among the early inhabitants of the earth medicines were scarcely recognized—diseases were less common and less numerous among them, and their healthy countenances and robust frames were the surest proofs of Nature's requirements. Nature has her own great physician, watching with a jealous eye every channel through which a poison might flow, and shunning the current that would bear it to destruction.

Would time permit, we might show a seeming rivalship between the progress of civilization and the increase of medicine; but we leave the subject by simply applying to that impertinent interference too frequently manifested on the part of the practitioner the time-honored rebuke, "let Nature alone."

AN EXTRACT

From Prof. C. B. Coventry's report on "Medical reform," as published in the Buffalo Medical Journal for March, 1850.

"There is no observation more trite, or more true, than that in union there is strength. It is the principle of strength in our national government; it is the principle on which all voluntary associations are formed.—It is, indeed, one of the first laws of nature. The cable which resists the rage of the elements, and enables the proud vessel to ride in safety, is composed of fibres which, taken separately, a child might sever. There is another maxim equally venerable, and which has the sanction of Holy Writ, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Has it never occurred to the reformers in medicine, that these common sense maxims were as applicable to the medical profession as the other pursuits of life? It is certain that but little can be accomplished by single and individual efforts. It is a maxim in our profession, that the first step towards successful treatment is to search for the cause or causes, and seat of the disease. Now, what is the evil which lies at the bottom of all our difficulties? I answer it is a want of public confidence, confidence not in individual members of the profession, but confidence in the profession as such. This may seem a startling proposition, but I believe it is true. I have heard an intelligent and educated clergyman observe that not one man in ten had the least confidence in the medical profession. This may be, and I hope is, an exaggeration, still, that there is too much truth, all must admit: this is the disease! But what is the cause? Is it inherent in the profession itself, or is it that the profession of medicine which was cultivated for ages before the advent of christianity, a profession, of the members of which it was said of old,

> "A good physician, skilled, our wounds to heal,
> Is more than armies to the public weal;"

is, after all, entitled to no more confidence, and higher consideration? I answer, no. What then is the cause of the disease? It is the conduct of the members of the profession, and their treatment of each other! How often do we hear persons expressing regret at the loss or removal of their family physician, or when themselves about to move, a regret at going from their physician, evincing a confidence in their own physician, but a distrust in the profession. This feeling is all but universal. A confidence in their own family physician, combined with a general distrust or want of confidence in the medical profession as a whole. This is certainly the fault of ourselves; if the members are trusted as individuals, it is their own fault, if there is not the same confidence placed in them as a body. I appeal to those who hear me. Look over the broad expanse of our country in every

village, town, and hamlet, who is the man, who exercises the most influence? In three cases out of four, next to the clergyman, it is the physician, who is often the confidant of the family, the depository of their secrets.—He is supposed to be an educated man, a reading man, and his constant intercourse with the people gives him an opportunity of knowing and consulting their feelings, possessed by no other profession. It has been justly and truly said, that there was no object in itself reasonable, so far as legislation is concerned, that they could not accomplish. Certainly no body of men could accomplish so much by concert and harmony of action, but instead of this, every man's hand is literally against his neighbor. The very confidence placed in an individual leads to a distrust of the profession, when he hears his own physician representing his brethren and rivals as fools and knaves. The result of this has been, that doctors' quarrels have become proverbial, and our noble profession trampled in the dust, a by-word and reproach. The credit which should be given to the profession as a body is monopolized by the individual, and his success is attributed to his superior skill and wisdom. A gentleman of one of the learned professions once told me, that when, on a certain occasion, riding with a medical man, he expressed a wish to, and did call on several of his professional brethren, who expressed their pleasure at seeing him. When they renewed their ride, the doctor observed, "how strange this seems! we doctors never call on each other!"

I am happy to know that this feeling is far from being universal. In many of our cities, and sometimes in the country, the intercourse between the members of the medical profession are as friendly and cordial as that of any profession whatever; but it is feared that there are too many cases where the truth of the Doct.'s remarks would apply, that Doctors never call upon each other. But the time is approaching, if it is not already at hand, when doctors must call on each other, or our profession will cease to be worth practicing. We must not only call upon each other, but we must learn to respect each other; to stand by and aid each other in defence of ourselves. It is undoubtedly true, that medical men are too prone to comment upon and censure the practice of others, if it does not conform to their own particular views; and the most natural inference drawn by listeners and lookers on is, that one or both must necessarily be wrong. And this impression, instead of being corrected, is too frequently encouraged.—It much more frequently happens that both are right, and that after all, it is only a difference as to the best means of accomplishing the same object. Take, for instance, a case of inflammation of any internal organ: one man bleeds at the arm, adopting general bleeding as the quickest mode of arresting the disease; another prefers local bleeding; another thinks it best to reduce the system by the administration of saline cathartics; another will give antimony, and another prefers giving homœopathic doses, or its equivalent, nothing, and reducing the patient by the abstraction of food and all stimuli. The same object is accomplished in all, viz., reducing the sys-

tem. It is true that all cannot be best, for this depends upon the nature of the particular case. We are all prone to prefer such means as we have been accustomed to use with success; but this does not prove that some different mode may not be equally successful. The disciples of Hahnemann have frequently asserted that scarcely any two physicians of what they term the old school, agree in their practice. I deny the assertion, and venture to assert that in any ordinary disease, well educated men would not differ in one case out of ten; no, not once in a hundred. I speak advisedly on this subject, for few men have had better opportunity for knowing the practice of the profession. Where the disease is obscure there may be difference in the diagnosis, and of course this will lead to difference in treatment; there may be some slight difference as to the best mode of accomplishing the desired object; but where they were agreed I have rarely found any difficulty in agreeing upon the means to be used. This is not the popular opinion; the general impression is, that doctors disagree among themselves, that this man bleeds, and another never bleeds, this man gives one thing and that man another thing. Is it surprising that a reflecting mind, with these impressions, should lose his confidence in the profession? I am sorry to say, that false as the impression is, and suicidal as it is, it has been too often encouraged by members of the profession. Let this be reformed altogether, and let every practitioner take pains to explain to their patients that though they may differ from another as to the precise means to be adopted, it is not a difference of principle.

You will, perhaps, ask, is it not a duty which we owe to the public to expose gross ignorance, when found, even in the profession, under the garb of ostentatious and arrogant assumption? And who would thank you for the exposure? Would knavery have one dupe the less, or ignorance lose a single victim? Our law-makers have decided that the people are competent to judge of such matters, and to interfere would be construed as interfering with their inherent rights. Exposures of this kind, are usually attributed to professional rivalry and jealousy, rather than to a sense of duty; and often proves more disastrous to the person making it, than to the person exposed. It is a short-sighted policy, to hope to elevate ourselves by depressing our neighbors. It would be much wiser to encourage, instruct, and sustain each other, so far as it could conscientiously be done, than hope to gain by exposing his mistakes and blunders to the public eye. We are all fallible, and the time may come when we ourselves may want that charity we would deny to another; better let us adopt that Golden Rule in our treatment of our Medical Brethren, and "do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you;" for this is not only "the Law and the Prophets," but it is the sum of Medical Ethics."